

and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall vote No. 366. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 1561, AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT OF 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1561, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, cross references, punctuation, and indentation, and to make any other technical and conforming changes necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent all members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous material, on H.R. 1561, the bill just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask for this time for purpose of inquiring about the schedule from the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY].

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. KENNELLY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

The House will not be in session on Monday, June 12.

On Tuesday the House will meet at 12 o'clock p.m. to consider H.R. 1530, the fiscal year 1996 National Defense Authorization Act, subject to a rule. Members should be advised that recorded votes may take place beginning at 12 noon on Tuesday.

Wednesday and the balance of the next week the House will meet at 10 a.m. to complete consideration of H.R. 1530.

After completion of the defense measure we plan to take up the 1996 military construction appropriations bill. It is our hope to have Members on their way home to their families and

their districts by no later than 3 p.m. on Friday.

Mrs. KENNELLY. I thank the gentleman. I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I am very concerned about what I understand the rule is going to be next week. Many of us were not able to offer very critical amendments this week to the foreign aid bill, and next week I had an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would bring the authorization bill down \$9.5 billion to the level the Pentagon asked for. It is my understanding that will not be made in order and I am very concerned about that, because I understood we were going to be allowed to at least debate fundamental differences and people of the committee, of which I am on the committee and a senior ranking member on the committee, would like to debate this fundamental deference.

So I am very concerned about whether next week we are just going to be here doing some pro forma pantomime rather than getting to the fundamental issues of the defense committee and these incredible markups that have happened.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. KENNELLY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. I am sure the chairman of the Committee on Rules would like to speak to the rule on this bill. All I can say is that this is a very important piece of legislation. We are hoping to let many issues come to the floor under this legislation. There are a lot of Members who wanted amendments; unfortunately we could not accommodate all of them, but the chairman from the Committee on Rules can probably speak to this.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. KENNELLY. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. I say to my good friend, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], I am not aware of any amendments being denied as yet. We are still in the process at this late hour of consulting with both the minority on the Committee on National Security and with the minority on the Committee on Rules as to what amendments will be made in order. The rule will be, as it has been in the past, a structured rule.

However, in our preliminary discussions with the minority on the two different committees, I believe they believe this is going to be a fair rule to all Members. Certainly we are going to try to take all of the major issues, significant issues, into consideration.

As soon as I finish this colloquy we will go up to the Committee on Rules and finish the consulting, and, hopefully, within the next hour or two pass a rule.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. KENNELLY. I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. I am then hoping what I am hearing is that you have not made a final decision on this. I know that the ranking member on the Committee on National Security has spoken to the Speaker, has spoken to all sorts of people. We feel this is one of the most fundamental issues there, and we thought people had come here to debate reasonable levels of expenditures. To deny our side the right to offer a very basic amendment that would bring the defense budget, the bloated defense budget, in my opinion, back down to where the Commander in Chief had it and the Pentagon had it I think would be absolutely outrageous, so I am glad to hear the Committee on Rules has not done that and that is a malicious rumor, and I certainly hope the gentleman from New York will not do that, or we are going to have to declare war or something.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. KENNELLY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to reinforce what the gentlewoman from Colorado said. It is inconceivable to me that the proposal on the budget made by the President would not come forward. I want to add, I have been disturbed, I had hoped we had had some progress on the rule, but I do not really believe that we have. In the first place, 3 days to do the defense bill is inadequate.

Now in fairness to the chairman of the Committee on Rules, given an inadequate amount of time there is not much he can do about that, but I would say to the leadership on the Republican side, 3 days to do the whole defense bill, which I assume includes debating the rule, which includes the general debate, and then amendments on this enormous amount of money which is in fact being increased, is clearly going to be inadequate, and we are seeing a restriction.

In particular I would like to urge and I would say to my friend, the chairman of Committee on Rules, if he is going to continue to do these rules that have a 6 hour and 8 hour, in the name of basic fairness, quorum calls should not come out of that time. If there is a debate about someone's words being taken down, it should not come out of that time. The problem now is that you give us the 6 hours and the clock does not stop. It is like a basketball game where the time outs and the fouls and everything else just run the clock, and then obviously allows people to game it, and even if they are not trying to game it, it is a problem.

So to them a rule with a hour limit if it does not exclude from that time things like quorum calls, fights over points of order, et cetera, we are clearly making a mockery of the process, and I would hope that that would not continue to happen.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?